(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any road is being constructed for Nathu La;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the necessary arrangements that are being made by Government for Nathu La?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) There is no proposal of new Nathu La bypass road. The widening to 2-lane of 56 km existing GS Road from Gangtok to Nathula has been approved by the Government under Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE).

Dredging at Paradip Port

1897. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Paradip port authorities have asked for sanction of revised estimates for dredging work to deepen the navigable channel, etc.

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the revised estimates would be sanctioned if not already done?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Paradip Port Trust has sought Government's approval to their Revised Cost Estimate of the Project for Deepening of Channel at Paradip Port. The project is under process for obtaining the requisite approval.

Traffic density on NH-9

1898. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NH-9 has highest density of vehicular traffic and is ranked No.3 among the National Highways in terms of traffic handling;

(b) whether out of a total length of 265 kms that was to be four-laned between Hyderabad to Vijayawada on NH-9, only a small stretch of 70 kms has been four-laned in the last four years since the commissioning of the project;

(c) whether the project is getting delayed due to insufficient allocation of funds;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to step up allocation to the project during 2007-08; and

(e) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Sir, NH-9 is one of the high density traffic corridors of the National Highways network in the country.

(b) to (e) Out of the total length of 265 km of NH-9 between Hyderabad-Vijayawada about 89 km length has already been four-laned. The balance 176 km length has been identified for four-laning on BOT basis under NHDP Phase-III A and is likely to be completed by December, 2010.

Coastal maritime infrastructure

1899. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a request from the State Government of Andhra Padesh for establishment of National Sea Route and associated coastal/maritme infrastructure along the north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has acceded to the request for sanction of the project;

(c) if so, when would be the project commence and the estimated cost of the same; and